

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of The Joint Parish Councils of Covenham St Bartholomew and Covenham St Mary which took place on Thursday 28th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms, Main Road, Covenham St Bartholomew

Prior to the council meeting an applicant to be co-opted on to the council was interviewed by Cllr Cooling, Cllr Gulley-Brown, Cllr Fields, Cllr Denny.

AGENDA – Minutes

Appointment of Clerk for the meeting – Cllr Nicky Gulley-Brown

1. Apologies: Sue Booth.
2. Declaration of Interest: Cllr stated the interest she had with item13, state of the Plough Building.
3. Minutes from Meeting 27th June, proposed Cllr Denney, seconded, Cllr Fields approved
4. Chairman's update:
 - a. Cllr Cooling stated that she had collated bank mandate forms for Cllrs to get approved at Barclays so the bank account signatures can be amended and updated.
 - b. Tree at St Bartholomew's had been sorted by Mike Payne tree surgeon.
 - c. Notice board had been cleared out by the wind – possibly due to not being fully locked tight by the last person how put a notice in?
 - d. St Marys Church council have asked the parish council to keep clear the church path of green slime to keep visitors safe from possible slips.
 - e. Mrs Berry has recently passed away (September), Toms wife who has been involved in the village and Parish Council, Cllr Cooling sent Parish Council condolences.
 - f. Planning Application update – Land opposite Vega has had its application turned down due to the proposed development would change the rural character and nature of the village and would be harmful to the outlook of Southfield Farm outlook.
 - g. Mr & Mrs Ramsden have resubmitted their planning application. Building of 2 dwellings, to look at previous submission and take note of the changes prior to submitting our response.
 - h. Annual return is back from Grant Thornton and this is the last time they will audit our accounts as from now on they will be submitted on to the village website – more info to follow during the meeting.
5. Open Forum:
 - a. LCC – Cllr Bridges, (actually delivered this item later in the meeting). Cllr Bridges is part of the environment ecological scrutiny committee and they are working towards 98% of villages receiving fibre broadband over the next 5yrs. Cllr Bridges will be imminently meeting with Cllr R Davis about highways and offered to bring him to Covenham to look at the highways and see the state of our roads, pot holes and also to question on the salting route ready for winter. Cllr Bridges to invite Cllr R Davies to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Gulley proposed, Cllr Denney seconded. Cllr Bridges requested that he be informed about potholes and damaged roads prior to his meeting.

- b. ELDC no one present – Cllr Cooling to contact Cllr Buckley with regards to being present at future meetings.
6. Members of the public – Paul and Alexis Burd from Lynwood House. They are attending out of interest and asked how would they normally find out about Parish Council meeting schedule, and get hold of minutes. They were informed that everything will soon be available in the public domain on the Covenham website.
7. Nomination for the Eleemosary Charity Trustee. This vacancy has been advertised in the Parish Notice board and the village (from the Furrow) leaflet but no one has come forward and applied. Cllr Brader gave us an insight into the commitments of the trustee: DDM / Tony Dale collect the rent from the Eleemosary land and the trustees are to look at the disbursement of the funds. Half of these funds are for the Church and half for the poors of Covenham St Bartholomew. Duncan Topliss carry out the accountant's role. The vacancy is to cover the role of the late Heather Kelly. Cllr Denney offered his services. Proposed by Cllr Gulley and Seconded by Cllr Fields. Cllr Denney will need to report back to the Parish Council on how the funds are used.
8. Transparency fund and Parish Council website: Cllr Gulley has approached LCC for our Parish Council webspace that is provided free for Parishes with less than £25,000 turnover. This is in motion and soon should be available for all to visit and keep up to date with current information from their arm chair. We can apply for funding to allow us to create and maintain this IT presence. Cllr Cooling to speak with Sue Booth as to if she would need a laptop and scanner to help her carry out her new role of clerk then the funding application can go forward. Provision of BB into the village for our purpose, Cllr Beasley proposed we had this installed at the Parish Rooms, Cllr Cooling seconded.
9. Financial update: Accounts are not quite up to date this time due to time constraints – but they will be before handed over to Sue Booth. Currently £7,352.40 in the current account and £5,335 in the savings account. Payments to be made since these figures are Water, Eon, 2 cheques for the church yard maintenance,
10. Bills for payment: Mike Payne £500 tree surgeon, proposed Cllr Gulley seconded Cllr Denney.
11. Speeding signs for the village: Cllr Bridges to look into what other villages have done and bring information back to next meeting.
12. Purchase of Defibrillator for the Parish Rooms: Cost will be in the region of £2000 this will include power pack, comes also with training so villagers can use in case of emergency. Cllr Denney to speak with Jenny Ballantyne as to is the Eleemosary fund could contribute to this cost.
13. State of the Plough Building. This is now an eye sore and falling into disrepair. It was suggested that Sue Booth wrote to ELDC chief planning officer, Chris Panton, for them to write to and apply pressure on the owner to tidy, renovate and return this building into a working state. Cllr Denney proposed and Cllr Fields seconded.
14. Quotes for building works on the Parish Rooms: 3 quotes were obtained and shared to each Cllr and contents discussed. Quotes differ so maybe we could share the work load as all local trades men. Priorities are: Ceiling & Lighting, Toilets, fire doors but before work commences Cllr Gulley to apply to Parishes Lincolnshire to see what funding may be available.

15. Act of Remembrance: Terry Aldrich has offered to take the wreath to Fulstow Church and get it blessed and then bring it to St Bartholomew's for a remembrance service at 12 O'clock on Sunday.

16. AOB:

- a. Renovation work going on at Covenham St Bartholomew Church and yard. There is a working party of volunteers clearing and cleaning at the church and yard and they have requested that the Parish Council fund for an incinerator to assist with their maintenance plan. Discussion took part and concern was shown with regards to the work already carried out. Member of the Public Paul Burd invited the PC to come on Sunday 8th and see the volunteers in action and see the good work that was being carried out. Cllr Fields proposed we fund the request and Cllr Denney seconded it. Cllr Gulley to inform the working party to submit their invoice for reimbursement.
- b. Mr Don Wiltshire, from Covenham St Bartholomew, was interviewed and approved to join Covenham Parish Council. Declaration of Interest and Acceptance of Office forms to be completed and returned to the Clerk.

17. Other Matters: Mobile Chip van coming into the village alternate Wednesday's and concern has been shown regarding litter and would they leave a mess. Cllr Gulley said this should not be the case and if it was she would contact them straight away. Also, could the Parish Rooms be opened for villagers to use and meet in should this be requested. Cllr Cooling said she would need to check the insurance before a decision could be made.

18. Date of Next meeting 26/10/17 7pm Cllr Bridges to invite Highways